rewards to officers senior to Additional Commissioner. Similarly, there is no proposal for grant of rewards to officials senior to Deputy Commissioner in the Customs and Central Excise Department.

Pakistani currency note in Nasik Press

† 4303. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Pakistani ten rupee currency note was found during the search from an employee working in a currency press located at Nasik Road in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the investigation has been initiated in the said case; if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Pakistani ten rupee currency note was seized from Shri A. Y. Sheikh during the general check of employees conducted by Currency Note Press, Nasik.

(c) Police Department conducted an independent inquiry and concluded that collection of foreign currencies is the hobby of Sh. Sheikh.

Special insurance scheme for Gujarat

† 4304. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that people living in several parts of Gujarat are feeling the tremors of earthquake even today which hit Gujarat last year;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to formulate any special insurance scheme for the people residing there, whose lives and property etc. got totally destroyed due to such earthquakes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Insurance covers are already available for various natural calamities, such as, earthquake, cyclone, flood, hurricane, landslide, etc. with the four public sector general insurance companies *viz.* (i) National Insurance Co. Ltd. (ii) New India Assurance Co. Ltd. (iii) Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. and (iv) United India Insurance Co. Ltd. Similarly, Personal Accident Policies covering deaths and disablement due to accidents are also available with these companies. These covers can be purchased by any person from these companies by paying the requisite premium.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

NPAs of Public Sector *vis-a-vis* Foreign Banks

4305. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ratio of net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Public Sector Banks is 2.26 per cent of total assets but in case of foreign binks it is only 0.79 per cent;

(b) if so, whether this vast difference is attributable to management of the PSBs *vis-a-vis* foreign banks or whether there are any other reasons for this; and

(c) whether any study has been made for recovery of NPAs during the last three years and whether any changes are required to improve the recovery of NPAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The ratio of net NPAs to total assets of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as on March 31,2001 was 2.72% and 0.8% for Foreign Banks. The major reasons for difference in ratio of net NPAs to total assets of PSBs and foreign banks is that the foreign banks operating in selected locations lend to selected clientele in selected areas with priority sector lending limited to export credit and credit to SSI Sector. The PSBs with large rural network are required to lend to all sections of the society including agriculture, education, housing, Government sponsored schemes, weaker sections and other priority sectors as well.

(c) Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reviews the position of NPAs on a continuing basis and various measures have been taken for recovery of NPAs such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy by banks for